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OCT 2 7 2006

Page 5

Application No.: 10/523,490

Docket No.: SR0017

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the case. Group I is provisionally elected with traverse. The restriction requirement is submitted to be improper because neither Kobo (US 5,229,473) nor Feiring (US 6,593,058), alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the use of repeat unit (b) of Claim 1 of the instant application in a fluorine-containing copolymer wherein at least one of R¹ - R¹² is OH or O₂CR¹³ and R¹- R¹³ are as defined in Claim 1 of the instant application. Both cited references disclose the use of CO₂R groups, but these are quite distinct from the O₂CR groups disclosed in Applicant's invention. Kobo's disclosure of an OH substitutent is for a third monomer, which has a different ring structure from that of repeat unit (b). Similarly, the OH substitutents disclosed by Feiring et al are not attached to a ring carbon, but rather to a carbon far removed from the ring, e.g., in -CH₂OCH₂C(CF₃)₂OH.

Applicants believe that the copolymers of Claims 1-12 represent an advance over the art and are both novel and non-obvious. The claims of Groups I-IV therefore share a "special technical feature" and as such need not be examined separately.

There is no change in the inventorship from that originally filed with the priority case.

Should there be any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

Respectfully submitted,

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